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guide aperture 30 causes the linear material to be spooled substantially uniformly onto the drum 42. The skilled artisan will readily appreciate that a number of other reciprocating mechanisms can be employed to distribute linear material across the drum as it winds or unwinds.--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 6 with the following substitute paragraph:

--The upper hemisphere 22 comprises a rear portion 23 and a facial indicia element, such as a decorative access panel 34 in the illustrated embodiment. The panel 34 is preferably configured to be readily removed or opened to allow access to the interior of the housing 21. Removal of the panel 34 thus allows a user to access the reel assembly 41. Alternatively, the panel 34 can be hingedly attached to the rear portion 23 so that the panel 34 can be opened to allow access to the reel assembly. In the illustrated embodiment, the panel 34 has a lower edge 44, which forms a portion of the length of the lower edge of the upper hemisphere 22, and an upper edge 45, which in the illustrated embodiment extends in an arc from the lower edge generally upward to a point at or near the top of the upper hemisphere 22.--.

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 14, and 21 as follows:

1. (Amended) A reel housing configured to enclose a rotatable reel drum, said housing having an access panel having an exterior surface, said access panel having a closed position in which said access panel does not permit a human hand to access an interior of said housing, and an open position in which said access panel permits a human hand to access said interior of said housing, said exterior surface of said access panel having facial indicia to resemble one of an animal, a human, a human-like character, and an alien creature, said housing having an aperture sized to closely surround spoolable linear material extending through said aperture, so that the linear material can be spooled onto and unspooled from the reel drum while said housing encloses the reel drum.

14. (Amended) A reel housing comprising a housing body configured to enclose a rotatable reel drum as linear material is spooled onto or unspooled from the drum, said housing body having a removable access panel having an exterior surface, wherein removal of said access panel allows access to an interior of said housing body, said exterior surface of said access panel